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Trees For Tomorrow

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Summer Jobs, 1970

Beyond Boise— Marking Memories

The Cottonwood Ranger District of the Boise National Forest was my home for the month of August, 1970. The ranger station was located about 35 miles east of Boise near the Boise River, the last 15 miles being over a very narrow, rough, winding gravel road. The station is abandoned during the winter and the personnel move into Boise. My job was timber marking for the one large sale the district offers each year. About four extra men are hired for August and early September just to mark timber. These are usually people who have just come from summer camp. I had just gotten out of Army R.O.T.C.



Our remodeled garage below the lookout tower on Thorn Creek Butte.

summer camp myself. Our crew boss, a student from Utah State, was a native of Hawaii and a very interesting person. He had been there the whole summer this year and two previous years as well. During the week, we lived in a remodeled garage just below a lookout tower on a 7700 feet high mountain. We had a beautiful view of the surrounding country and the Sawtooth mountain range in the distance. We cooked with a gas stove and a wood-burning stove and played poker during the the nights under a gas lantern. On the weekends we went back down to the ranger station and into Boise for food and fun. Most of our marking was for selection cuts

in Pondersosa Pine and Rocky Mountain Douglas Fir-Alpine Fir stands, with a few small clearcuts as well. The Douglas Fir and Alpine Fir were badly infected with mistletoe, so infected trees that were too small to sell were marked for felling by another crew to help control the disease. Our crew was also sent to fight two small fires and we spent one day marking erosion bar sites on logging trails. On the job, we were usually walking up and down and along steep hills at high elevation, often through thick brush or downed trees, so it was hard work, but we enjoyed ourselves and managed to learn quite a bit in the process.

Mark Delfs

Trees For Tomorrow

This past summer we worked one week at the Trees for Tomorrow Conservation Camp. While at the camp, we lived in cabin-like dorms with high school students interested in careers in the field of Natural Resource Management. The career workshop was entitled "Environmental Management of Forest Resources". Although Forestry oriented to some extent, the students were given a broad picture of the land management field, discussing and visiting operations ranging from recreational to forest and forest product facilities.

The position at Eagle River was of significant value for both of us. First, it allowed us a little different perspective of the Resource Management profession. During the first half of the summer we attended Forestry Summer Camp in New York and were on the receiving end of the instruction. But at Eagle River we were placed on the other side of the fence, more and less. Now we were helping in the teaching process, answering questions, etc. The other obvious benefits of the camp was the opportunity to see an excellent facility and associate with the people employed there. One such person was Lee Andreas, the camp's educational director, a former I.S.U. graduate.

Summing up, we can say that the one week position was certainly worthwhile. It helped tie together a summer of traveling and learning and reasserted the general knowledge gained in New York.

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